



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Caltrans Fallen Workers Memorial Interchange Honors Highway Workers Who Lost Lives in Line of Duty**

*Dedication ceremony held for newly named interchange*

**LOS ANGELES** — Caltrans today held a ceremony to dedicate the Foothill Freeway (I-210) and Golden State Freeway (I-5) interchange as the Caltrans District 7 Fallen Workers Memorial Interchange.

State Assemblymember Luz Rivas, who authored a resolution to memorialize the interchange, stated: “The Caltrans District 7 Fallen Workers Memorial Interchange honors the legacies of those who lost their lives building, maintaining, and operating one of California’s most valuable assets: its transportation system.”

Since 1921, Caltrans has lost 189 employees statewide. Thirty-three of those employees killed in the line of duty worked in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

“The District 7 Fallen Workers Memorial Interchange, dedicated to those who served California as transportation professionals and made the highest sacrifice, will serve as a reminder to California drivers that we must continually recommit ourselves to safety,” said Caltrans Chief Deputy Director Ryan Chamberlain. “When you choose to speed, text, or drive under the influence, you are not only putting your life at risk, you are also putting others in serious danger.”

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, highway construction and maintenance work is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States. Nationally, drivers and passengers account for 85 percent of the people who are killed in highway work zones. These numbers don’t include the close calls highway workers experience daily.

“The newly-named interchange helps us keep our fallen colleagues’ memories alive and keep in mind the tremendous loss that their loved ones have suffered,” said Caltrans District 7 Director John Bulinski. “This is an opportunity to remind ourselves that it is everyone’s responsibility to help keep our highway workers safe by slowing down, paying attention and moving over when amber lights are flashing.”

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**BE WORK ZONE ALERT**





# NEWS RELEASE

Caltrans will invest \$54 billion in state highway and local roads across the state by 2027 due to Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017. SB 1 will upgrade 7,700 traffic operating systems and fix over 17,000 miles of pavement, 500 bridges and 55,000 culverts or drains. That means that motorists will encounter even more highway work zones and must stay alert for construction and maintenance workers and equipment.

Drivers can dramatically improve safety in work zones by slowing down, reducing distractions such as talking on the phone or texting, and dedicating all attention to the roadway. Motorists are also required by state law to move over a lane when safe to do so, or slow down when approaching vehicles with flashing amber warning lights.

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